

1 AN ACT concerning gaming.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Bingo License and Tax Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 1.1 and 1.3 as follows:

6 (230 ILCS 25/1.1)

7 Sec. 1.1. Definitions. For purposes of this Act, the  
8 following definitions apply:

9 "Bingo" means a game in which each player has a card or  
10 board for which a consideration has been paid, containing 5  
11 horizontal rows of spaces, with each row except the central one  
12 containing 5 figures. The central row has 4 figures with the  
13 word "free" marked in the center space. "Bingo" includes games  
14 that otherwise qualify under this paragraph, except for the use  
15 of cards where the figures are not preprinted but are filled in  
16 by the players. A player wins a game of bingo by completing a  
17 preannounced combination of spaces or, in the absence of a  
18 preannouncement of a combination of spaces, any combination of  
19 5 spaces in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

20 "Bingo equipment" means any equipment or machinery  
21 designed or used for the play of bingo. "Bingo equipment" does  
22 not include electronic equipment.

23 "Charitable organization" means an organization or

1 institution organized and operated to benefit an indefinite  
2 number of the public.

3 "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

4 "Educational organization" means an organization or  
5 institution organized and operated to provide systematic  
6 instruction in useful branches of learning by methods common to  
7 schools and institutions of learning which compare favorably in  
8 their scope and intensity with the course of study presented in  
9 tax-supported schools.

10 "Fraternal organization" means an organization of persons  
11 having a common interest that is organized and operated  
12 exclusively to promote the welfare of its members and to  
13 benefit the general public on a continuing and consistent  
14 basis, including but not limited to ethnic organizations.

15 "Holiday" means any of the holidays listed in Section 17 of  
16 the Promissory Note and Bank Holiday Act.

17 "Labor organization" means an organization composed of  
18 labor unions or workers organized with the objectives of  
19 betterment of the conditions of those engaged in such pursuit  
20 and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their  
21 respective occupations.

22 "Licensed organization" means a qualified organization  
23 that has obtained a license to conduct bingo in conformance  
24 with the provisions of this Act.

25 "Limited license" means a license issued to an organization  
26 that is not a licensed organization, but that is otherwise

1 eligible for a regular license to conduct bingo. A limited  
2 license authorizes the conduct of bingo at up to 2 indoor or  
3 outdoor festivals during the calendar year for which the  
4 license is issued for a maximum of 5 consecutive days on each  
5 occasion.

6 "Non-profit organization" means an organization or  
7 institution organized and conducted on a not-for-profit basis  
8 with no personal profit inuring to anyone as a result of the  
9 operation.

10 "Organization" means a corporation, agency, partnership,  
11 association, firm, business or other entity consisting of 2 or  
12 more persons joined by a common interest or purpose.

13 "Person" means any natural individual, corporation,  
14 partnership, limited liability company, organization (as  
15 defined in this Section), licensee under this Act, or  
16 volunteer.

17 "Provider" means any person or organization, except a city,  
18 village, or incorporated town that owns or leases premises to  
19 an organization for the conduct of bingo.

20 "Regular license" means a license authorizing its holder to  
21 conduct one session of bingo per week on the date and at the  
22 time and location stated on the license.

23 "Religious organization" means any church, congregation,  
24 society, or organization founded for the purpose of religious  
25 worship.

26 "Senior citizens organization" means an organization or

1 association comprised of members of which substantially all are  
2 individuals who are senior citizens, as defined in the Illinois  
3 Act on the Aging, the primary purpose of which is to promote  
4 the welfare of its members.

5 "Special games" means bingo games that may be designated as  
6 such, played a maximum of 5 times during a bingo session and  
7 are distinguished from regular games only by the maximum price  
8 that may be charged for the bingo cards used.

9 "Special permit" means the ability of a licensee who  
10 currently holds a license to be granted a permit to conduct  
11 bingo ~~at other premises or~~ on other days not exceeding 5  
12 consecutive days.

13 "Supplier" means any person, firm, or corporation that  
14 sells, leases, or distributes to any organization licensed to  
15 conduct bingo or to any licensed bingo supplier, cards, boards,  
16 sheets, markers, pads and any other supplies, devices and  
17 equipment designed for use in the play of bingo.

18 "Veterans' organization" means an organization comprised  
19 of members of which substantially all are individuals who are  
20 veterans or spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, the  
21 primary purpose of which is to promote the welfare of its  
22 members and to provide assistance to the general public in such  
23 a way as to confer a public benefit.

24 "Volunteer" means a person recruited by an organization who  
25 voluntarily performs services at a bingo event, including  
26 participation in the management or operation of a game.

1 "Youth athletic organization" means an organization having  
2 as its exclusive purpose the promotion and provision of  
3 athletic activities for youth aged 18 and under.

4 (Source: P.A. 95-228, eff. 8-16-07.)

5 (230 ILCS 25/1.3)

6 Sec. 1.3. Restrictions on licensure. Licensing for the  
7 conducting of bingo is subject to the following restrictions:

8 (1) The license application, when submitted to the  
9 Department, must contain a sworn statement attesting to the  
10 not-for-profit character of the prospective licensee  
11 organization, signed by a person listed on the application  
12 as an owner, officer, or other person in charge of the  
13 necessary day-to-day operations of that organization.

14 (2) The license application shall be prepared in  
15 accordance with the rules of the Department.

16 (3) The licensee shall prominently display the license  
17 in the area where the licensee conducts bingo. The licensee  
18 shall likewise display, in the form and manner as  
19 prescribed by the Department, the provisions of Section 8  
20 of this Act.

21 (4) Each license shall state the day of the week, hours  
22 and at which location the licensee is permitted to conduct  
23 bingo games.

24 (5) A license is not assignable or transferable.

25 (6) A license authorizes the licensee to conduct the

1 game commonly known as bingo, in which prizes are awarded  
2 on the basis of designated numbers or symbols on a card  
3 conforming to numbers or symbols selected at random.

4 (7) The Department may, on special application made by  
5 any organization having a bingo license, issue a special  
6 permit for conducting bingo ~~at other premises and~~ on other  
7 days not exceeding 5 consecutive days, except that a  
8 licensee may conduct bingo at the Illinois State Fair or  
9 any county fair held in Illinois during each day that the  
10 fair is held, without a fee. Bingo games conducted at the  
11 Illinois State Fair or a county fair shall not require a  
12 special permit. No more than 2 special permits may be  
13 issued in one year to any one organization.

14 (8) Any organization qualified for a license but not  
15 holding one may, upon application and payment of a  
16 nonrefundable fee of \$50, receive a limited license to  
17 conduct bingo games at no more than 2 indoor or outdoor  
18 festivals in a year for a maximum of 5 consecutive days on  
19 each occasion. No more than 2 limited licenses under this  
20 item (7) may be issued to any organization in any year. A  
21 limited license must be prominently displayed at the site  
22 where the bingo games are conducted.

23 (9) Senior citizens organizations and units of local  
24 government may conduct bingo without a license or fee,  
25 subject to the following conditions:

26 (A) bingo shall be conducted only (i) at a facility

1           that is owned by a unit of local government to which  
2           the corporate authorities have given their approval  
3           and that is used to provide social services or a  
4           meeting place to senior citizens, (ii) in common areas  
5           in multi-unit federally assisted rental housing  
6           maintained solely for the elderly and handicapped, or  
7           (iii) at a building owned by a church or veterans  
8           organization;

9           (B) the price paid for a single card shall not  
10          exceed 50 cents;

11          (C) the aggregate retail value of all prizes or  
12          merchandise awarded in any one game of bingo shall not  
13          exceed \$10;

14          (D) no person or organization shall participate in  
15          the management or operation of bingo under this item  
16          (9) if the person or organization would be ineligible  
17          for a license under this Section; and

18          (E) no license is required to provide premises for  
19          bingo conducted under this item (9).

20          (10) Bingo equipment shall not be used for any purpose  
21          other than for the play of bingo.

22          (Source: P.A. 96-210, eff. 8-10-09; 96-1055, eff. 7-14-10;  
23          96-1150, eff. 7-21-10; 97-333, eff. 8-12-11.)

24          Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
25          becoming law.